

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.  
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Richmond Dispatch.  
 THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1881.

THE CIRCULATION OF THE DISPATCH IS LARGER THAN THE COMBINED CIRCULATION OF ALL THE OTHER DAILY NEWS-PAPERS OF THE CITY.

Entered at the Post-Office at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter.

WEATHER REPORT.  
 INDICATIONS FOR TO-DAY.—For the Middle Atlantic States, warmer fair weather, followed by increasing cloudiness and occasional rain, east to south winds, and lower barometer.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was cloudy and cool.

TERMO-METER YESTERDAY: 6 A. M., 54; 9 A. M., 58; noon, 62; 3 P. M., 65; 6 P. M., 68; midnight, 64.  
 Wind, variable, 3 to 4.  
 State temperature, 59.

# LOCAL MATTERS.

**THE JAMES-RIVER IMPROVEMENT.**—Gratification of the COMMISSION OF THE JAMES-RIVER IMPROVEMENT, yesterday submitted to the Council committee (J. D. Cresswell, chairman) his report of operations on the improvement, showing the amount of work done in the month of April. From the report it appears that 2,440 cubic yards of rock, sand, mud, &c., have been removed during that time.

In conclusion Major Whitcomb says: "A very gratifying evidence of the progress of the improvement, and of the confidence that is being placed in the permanent character, has been given recently by the Old Dominion Steamship Company in fixing a regular hour for the departure of their ships from this port, instead of as heretofore being governed by the hour of high tide. These ships are being loaded as they are, and are, therefore, only a few hours late, and are not being held up at high tide, and for some months in 1870-71 they did not come to the city at all. Such facts as these are perfect answer to all the reports, insinuations, and arguments against the improvement of the river. The thanks of your committee and of the people of this city are due to the permanent character of the improvement of the river. The thanks of your committee and of the people of this city are due to the permanent character of the improvement of the river. The thanks of your committee and of the people of this city are due to the permanent character of the improvement of the river."

The report will be highly gratifying to our citizens, as it treats of a subject of importance to all, particularly the business of the community.

**DEATH OF A CONVICT FROM THE PENITENTIARY.**—Yesterday morning about 2 o'clock the guard on duty at the penitentiary discovered evidence, in the shape of an improvised ladder standing against the inside of the wall and a rope hanging on the outside, that a prisoner had escaped. The matter was at once reported to the proper officer, and upon investigation it was found that the escape had been effected by John Johnson, alias James Waller, alias Benjamin Walker, who occupied one of the cells in the third tier, had cut his way out and lowered himself to the ground. There a guard stationed in the interior of the prison, but about the time Wilson made his escape he was in a position to see the prisoner. The prisoner has for some time past been employed in the carpenter-shop, and had managed to construct the ladder out of sections of scantling with nails driven in, and which was spliced when ready for use, which, together with the piece of rope, enabled him to get away from his cell. The guard on duty at the penitentiary, and he has to patrol its entire length, and it was an easy matter for Wilson to watch his opportunity and scale the wall while his back was turned.

Henry Wilson, with the many aliases, is five feet nine and three-quarters high, dark complexion, black hair, gray eyes; born in Spotsylvania county, Va.; scar on both arms; scar on head; was in India-link on both arms. Was sent to the penitentiary from Fredericksburg for house-breaking in 1874, and served three years; was again sent to the penitentiary from Rockingham County in 1875 for fifteen years for house-breaking.

Superintendent Williams represents him as being a desperate character, and says that if he had been detected in the attempt to escape would have given the guard trouble. A reward has been offered for his recapture.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RICHMOND MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.**—Election of Officers, &c. The annual meeting of the Richmond Medical Association was held on Tuesday evening last. Mr. Bargamini was called to preside and H. P. Edmond to act as secretary.

The report of the treasurer was read, showing the Association was out of debt and had a balance to its credit.

On motion of Mr. Jenkins, a committee of five was appointed to propose a plan for a new hall or opera-house and to draw up a constitution and by-laws. After adjournment the Board of Governors met, and Major F. B. Scott declining nomination, Mr. Horace P. Edmond was elected president of the Association. Mr. R. W. Lubbuck was re-elected vice-president; Mr. Samuel Sinton was re-elected treasurer; and Captain J. W. Peggarn was elected secretary. Messrs. B. W. Jenkins, J. H. Kins, and H. W. were elected members of the Executive Committee.

**DISMISSING ACCIDENT.**—Yesterday afternoon about 2 o'clock a lady, a colored woman, named Mary, who resided on Seventh street between Clay and Leigh, was seriously wounded by the accidental discharge of a pistol which was being handled by her mother. The ball entered the head above the forehead, where it remained at last accounts, the doctors being unable to find it. Dr. Cunningham and White were called in, and did all that was possible under the circumstances. At midnight last night the little sufferer was reported to be resting quietly. He is a bright and interesting boy, and his parents are naturally suffering the severest grief over this sad accident.

**ACCIDENTAL DROWNING.**—Last Saturday the body of a colored man was found in the river near Taylorville, in Hanover county. It was identified as that of Edmond Ferrell, an employee of the Central Lunatic Asylum, in this city. An inquest was held by the Coroner, and the verdict of the jury was that he came to his death by accidental drowning. The deceased was subject to fits, and it is supposed that he was attacked with one and fell into the water.

**FOOT MARRIED.**—Yesterday afternoon about 3 o'clock a carpenter at the Tredegar Works named Baskett had his foot severely lacerated by a heavy piece of timber. The accident, which was witnessed by a large number of persons, conveyed the wounded man to his home.

**MATRIMONY.**—Last night at St. Paul's church, Miss Emily Minnigrode was united in marriage to Mr. Duckwith, of New Orleans. The ceremony, which was witnessed by a few friends, only, was performed by Dr. Minnigrode, the father of the bride.

**CONCERT AND DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT.**—The concert and dramatic entertainment, recently given for the occupation of St. John's church, was witnessed by a large number of persons, and was highly successful. It was held on Friday evening next at St. John's church.

## THE DOCTORS IN COUNCIL.

Thirtieth-Second Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association.

Second Day's Proceedings.

A Large Gathering of M. D.'s at Mozart Hall—Business Commenced—Reports of Committees—Interesting and Practical Addresses—Neurological Matters—Meeting of the American Medical College Association and its Election of Officers, &c.

The Association was, pursuant to the order of adjournment, called to order promptly at 10 A. M. yesterday, and opened for business with prayer by Rev. Joshua Peterkin, D. D., of St. James Episcopal church. The hall was filled with delegates, of whom there were at present over 500 in the city. A number of ladies and citizens were also in attendance. The President, John T. Hodges, M. D., of St. Louis, occupied the chair, and was prompt in action and efficient in the discharge of his duties. The emphasis which marked his crisp, clear, and speedy delivery of the address, led him to mean business. Several members appeared in the front of the hall in the act of extracting the aroma from divers specimens of "imported Havana" cigars, but they speedily cast away the fragrant and soothing weed when informed that this mode of pleasure was inadvisable by the rules.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS.**  
 The first business in order being reports from committees, the chairman of the Committee on Arrangements asked that the matter be passed by, as the committee had not yet completed its labors.

The "announcement of the Committee on Nominations" was only partial. The By-Laws require that there shall be a nomination of officers for the next year. About one half of the States represented on the list appeared in blank, and the matter was consequently referred back to the committee with a request to complete the list according to the usual custom. The committee immediately retired to fill up its ranks and prepare business.

**THE CODE OF ETHICS.**  
 The President stated that the next business in order was action on the proposed amendment to the Code of Ethics, as follows: Article I, paragraph 1st, add "and hence it is considered derogatory to the interests of the public and honor of the profession for any physician or surgeon to aid in any way the medical teaching or graduation of persons knowing them to be supporters and intended practitioners of some irregular and exclusive system of medicine."

Dr. Cohen, of Philadelphia, called for a vote on the amendment, which was adopted by a large majority. The amendment was then read by the Secretary, and declared its contents.

Dr. Marey, of Massachusetts, moved that the further consideration of the matter be indefinitely postponed.

The count of the secretary, who took the vote on this motion, made it appear that there were 74 votes in the affirmative and 74 in the negative. Before the vote was declared, however, two members claimed and exercised the right of casting a negative vote, so the motion was lost.

Dr. Dunster, of Michigan, then ascended the rostrum and addressed the body with vigor and incisive spirit in opposition to the adoption of the amendment. He was occasionally sarcastic, but always logical and matter-of-fact. His address was listened to with great interest, and he was abundantly in sufficient quantities to demonstrate that doctors' logic take naturally to that sort of adornment. It was said he claimed that the profession of medicine was a liberal one. It would not seem so if this amendment were adopted. There is no controlling legal, moral, social, or professional reason to impel its adoption. "You must close your eyes, your amphitheatre must be shut up," he said, "if you resolve, as a profession, to move in the narrow pathway suggested by this amendment."

The speaker, Dr. Dunster's broad and liberal exposition of the beneficial effect of a spread of medical knowledge rather than a contraction.

Dr. Davis, of Chicago, said he desired to discuss the question. He wanted to give a history of the matter leading to the introduction of the amendment. He thought it was a good thing, and would require, perhaps, half an hour to eliminate his views on the subject, but did not propose discussion at the present time.

Dr. Howard, of Baltimore, said he had grown weary of the whole subject. It was a question of *infinitum* at the last meeting of the Association in Georgia. In order, he would like to move its indefinite postponement.

Dr. Morris, of North Carolina, claimed that the other side had not been heard yet, and no vote would ensue to any body by a final vote.

The motion to indefinitely postpone was defeated. It was then made the special order for to-morrow.

**REPORT ON NEUROLOGY.**  
 Dr. J. M. Toner presented the annual report on neurology, in which he says: "While the Society has reason to be grateful for the fidelity with which some of the members have discharged the duties assigned them, there are a few who have totally neglected the obligations they owe to this body, and by such a course defrauded the dead of that respectful notice which this Society, in its wisdom, has deemed proper and made provision to give to every member who has received an honor in the neurological report of the American Medical Association in point of honor may be considered a sort of Westminster internment or monumental record among the highest medical worthies in the United States, and a disgraceful privilege that is acquired under the rules of every member of the Association. This right to a notice in the report can only be lost by some unworthy act of the member himself. We should be just to the dead, and every member should feel a respectful interest in the record and see that a respectable memorial record is neither neglected nor entirely omitted."

"One error I find to be prevalent in the minds of my associates, which is that members consider it their duty only to prepare notices of those who may die within the year for which they are serving on the committee, while the facts are that a member who has died in good standing, whether in actual affiliation with this body at the time of their demise or not, are equally under the rules, entitled to notice, no matter how many years have elapsed since their death."

"I trust the index, accompanying this report, of deceased physicians who have received notices, and whose names are scattered throughout its many volumes of transactions, will prove to be of convenience and value in making whatever has been published by us on this subject available and more valuable to the student and the public than they are at present."

The index referred to by Dr. Toner contains the names of over fifteen hundred deceased American physicians who have received comparatively full biographical notice and who have been classed among the leading medical men of the United States within the past half-century. It shows the average life-time of members of the medical profession to be about fifty-two and a half years; the age at which they generally begin practice is set down at twenty-five, and the age at the time of death at about fifty-six.

**POSTPONED.**  
 On motion, which was adopted, present consideration was postponed to the pending amendment to the By-Laws, offered by Dr. J. M. Keller, of Arkansas, reading as follows: "In the election of officers and appointment of committees by this Association and its president they shall be confined to members and delegates present at the meeting, except in the Committee on Arrangements, Climatology and Credentials."

The same course was taken in regard to the report of Dr. William Brodie, of Michigan, from the delegation to the Canada Medical Association.

## THE EXHIBITION.

Of Drugs, Chemicals, Surgical Instruments, &c.

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Secretary Connor's report was then presented and received. It shows an increase of two in the active membership of the Association since the last annual meeting. From the reports of the several colleges and universities, it appears that these institutions had conformed more universally and completely with the requirements of the Association than heretofore, and that everything pertaining to their connection with the body was entirely satisfactory.

The report of the Committee on Medical Education, which was presented by Dr. J. H. Packard, of Philadelphia, Mich., was also received. It contained a list of twenty-two of the colleges that had failed to come up to the Association's requirements in the matter of graduation. It also appeared that twenty-two of the colleges had surpassed these requirements in one or more of the following particulars: First, matriculation examinations; second, nine months regular attendance; third, the three regular terms requirement.

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**SET FOR DAMAGES.**—The trial of the suit of Robert A. Bryant, by his father and next friend, James E. Bryant, vs. Bruce & Archer, proprietors of the Vulcan Iron Works, was begun yesterday afternoon at 10 o'clock. The action is brought for damages, \$100,000, for injuries sustained by Robert A. Bryant, a lad, by getting entangled in the machinery of defendant's iron-works, located near the canal, in this city. He lost an arm and suffered other severe injuries, and was disabled badly. He was before the court and jury yesterday, when the evidence was partly heard and the case continued until to-day. There is also pending in the same court a suit brought by the father against the same defendants for \$5,000 damages for the loss of the son's services, &c. The plaintiff is represented by Meredith & Cooke, and the defendants by W. W. Crump & Son. The result will be looked for with interest.

**HESTINGS COURT.**—In the Hestings Court yesterday Bettie Jackson (colored), indicted for a felonious assault on Robert F. Fisher (small colored boy) was tried, convicted, and sentenced to twelve months in the city jail, and fined \$5.

**POLICE COURT.**—The following cases were disposed of by Justice D. C. Richardson yesterday: Ellen Harper (colored, assault and battery) was fined \$10 and required to give security for her good behavior. Della Smith (colored, assault and battery) was fined \$5 and required to give security for the peace for six months. William Norman and William Price (colored, fighting in the Second Market) were fined \$2.50 each.

**STORE ROBBER.**—Late Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning thieves broke into the store of A. Antoni, on Main between Eleventh and Twelfth streets, from the rear, and after opening drawers and scattering things around generally left, carrying off some cigars and about \$15 in cash.

**FUNERAL.**—The Amalgamated Iron-Workers' Association of this city turned out yesterday evening, headed by Voelker's Band, to pay the last tribute of respect to Mr. Gardner, a deceased member, whose funeral took place at St. Peter's Cathedral. The remains were interred in the Catholic Cemetery.

**ABANDONED A LUNATIC.**—